

INTRODUCED: 01/30/2017

REFERRED TO: Public Works Committee

SPONSOR: Councillor Adamson

DIGEST: initiates process to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use, create a climate change-resilient City that will protect future generations

SOURCE:

Initiated by: Councillor Adamson

Drafted by: Councillor Adamson

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ADOPTION:

Subject to approval or veto by Mayor

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE:

Adoption and approvals

GENERAL COUNSEL APPROVAL: _____ Date: January 26, 2017

CITY-COUNTY SPECIAL RESOLUTION NO. , 2017

A PROPOSAL FOR A SPECIAL RESOLUTION to reduce carbon emissions, increase energy efficiency and renewable energy use, to create a climate change-resilient City of Indianapolis that will protect the children and grandchildren of the community.

WHEREAS, the average temperature trend analyses from NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies Surface Temperature Analysis show significant average temperature rise; and

WHEREAS, the American Meteorological Society has declared there is unequivocal evidence of a changing climate since the 1950s, and

WHEREAS, the American Meteorological Society has also determined that the dominant cause of the warming due primarily to the burning of fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, numerous respected agencies and organizations including the American Lung Association, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Dept. of Defense Quadrennial Defense Review have determined that climate change is a serious risk to life, a threat multiplier, and a threat to national security, and

WHEREAS, localized risks to Hoosiers affecting human health, infrastructure and agriculture have included costly and dangerous extreme heat and drought conditions (2012), record-breaking rains and subsequent floods (2015), and overall chaotic weather extremes; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, 82 of Indiana's 92 counties were declared Presidential disaster areas due to winter weather, severe storms, and flooding, and incurred over \$1.9 billion in damage to public infrastructure, housing and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the Purdue Climate Change Research Center has determined that under continued business-as-usual "no action" carbon emissions, the Midwest should expect increased risks to public health, infrastructure and agriculture due to increased heat wave intensity and frequency, more extreme droughts, increased heavy rain events and flooding, decreasing agricultural yield and degraded air and water quality; and

WHEREAS, a shift to clean renewable energy is inevitable due to the finite nature of non-renewable fossil resources; and

WHEREAS, increasing the efficiency of our buildings, vehicles, and electricity, our Community will save money, conserve energy, reduce waste, reduce pollution, and promote jobs in the clean energy sector; and

WHEREAS, the effects of a healthier environment will substantially reduce health costs, especially for those suffering from asthma and emphysema and other lung illness associated with poor air quality; and

WHEREAS, various economic analyses have shown that it is possible to introduce climate mitigation at a low cost, and the benefits outweigh costs; and

WHEREAS, investment in energy independence from foreign oil will improve national security and reduce military expenses which could be used for domestic needs, such as education, infrastructure, and efforts to build resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the greatest burden resulting from an inadequate response to address climate change will be carried by the youngest generation, and all who follow; and

WHEREAS, the risks from an inadequate response are potentially devastating, and are projected to include economic and environmental disruption, accelerated species extinction rates, rising sea levels, and a dramatic increase in refugees from climate impacted lands; and

WHEREAS, a local individualized climate plan will allow Indianapolis to continue to show leadership in improving the quality of life for its citizens; now, therefore:

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS AND OF MARION COUNTY, INDIANA:

SECTION 1. The City of Indianapolis will achieve carbon neutrality by 2035 and take all appropriate actions to do so, which include obtaining a baseline measurement of citywide emissions, writing a climate plan, setting short term benchmark goals, establishing proper measures to ensure the plan is being implemented, and incorporating energy efficiency and renewable energy standards where possible.

SECTION 2. To the extent possible, the City of Indianapolis will support initiatives throughout the larger metropolitan area to reduce carbon footprint, ensure water and air quality standards, encourage locally and responsibly grown food, and augment transportation strategies like walking, biking, carpooling and using mass transit.

SECTION 3. The City of Indianapolis will research and implement a Climate Action Plan by 2020. Action on this Climate Action Plan must begin within 30 days of Resolution passage.

SECTION 4. The Mayor and Council of Indianapolis will appoint a commission comprised of business leaders, faith leaders, youth leaders, and community leaders from diverse populations to ensure all voices are included to monitor and accelerate all actions contained within.

SECTION 5. The Mayor and Council of Indianapolis, in a separate but connected act, will appoint a Youth Advisory Council for Climate Action, that shall meet bi-monthly.

SECTION 6. The Mayor of Indianapolis will ensure that a full-time staff member will head up the Office of Sustainability to assist in accomplishing all the above.

SECTION 7. This resolution shall be in full force and effect upon adoption and compliance with IC 36-3-4-14.

The foregoing was passed by the City-County Council this _____ day of _____, 2017, at _____ p.m.

ATTEST:

Maggie A. Lewis
President, City-County Council

NaTrina DeBow
Clerk, City-County Council

Presented by me to the Mayor this _____ day of _____, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.

NaTrina DeBow
Clerk, City-County Council

Approved and signed by me this _____ day of _____, 2017.

Joseph H. Hogsett, Mayor